



# BIOGRAPHY

## **ADMIRAL RONALD J. HAYS** **Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command**

Admiral Ronald Jackson Hays is the thirteenth naval officer to hold the position of Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command. As the senior U.S. military commander in the Pacific and Indian Ocean areas, he heads the largest of the unified commands and directs Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force operations across more than 100 million square miles--over 50 percent of the earth's surface. The U.S. Pacific Command extends from the west coast of the United States to the southern tip of Africa, from the Arctic to the Antarctic. He is responsible to the President and the Secretary of Defense through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and is the U.S. military representative for collective defense arrangements in the Pacific. These include the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security; the Mutual Defense Treaties with the Republic of Korea and the Republic of the Philippines; the ANZUS Treaty between Australia, New Zealand, and the United States; and the U.S./Thailand defense relationship under the multi-national Manila Pact.



Admiral Hays, a native of Urania, Louisiana, was commissioned an Ensign on 2 June 1950 following his graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy.

He has served on USS HUGH PURVIS (DD 709) as Communications Officer and in June 1951 was ordered to flight training and designated a Naval Aviator on 7 November 1952. Admiral Hays served in a number of operational assignments early in his career, including duty with Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE, Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River as a test pilot, and Carrier Air Group ONE as a Landing Signal Officer. In 1960-1961, he attended the Command and Staff Course at the Naval War College. Following assignments with Attack Squadron FORTY-FOUR, he served as Executive Officer of Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED SIX, Attack Training Officer in Carrier Air Wing FOUR, and in Vietnam as Commanding Officer of Attack Squadron EIGHTY-FIVE on board USS KITTY HAWK (CVA 63). Admiral Hays served as Air Warfare Officer on the staff of Commander, U.S. SEVENTH Fleet from 1967-68, and in 1969 he reported to Washington, D.C., as Tactical Aircraft Plans Officer in the Aviation Plans Branch, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, where he remained until February 1971 when he assumed command of the U.S. Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico.

He was selected to the rank of Rear Admiral in April 1972 and in August became Director of the General Planning and Programming Division, Office of Naval Operations. Subsequently, he served as Commander, Carrier Group FOUR, and Director, Office of Program Appraisal in the Office of the Secretary of the Navy. After his promotion to Vice Admiral on 1 September 1978, he became the Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command and U.S. Atlantic Fleet. He became Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe and U.S. Commander, Eastern Atlantic on 30 September 1980. Admiral Hays became Vice Chief of Naval Operations and was promoted to Admiral on 29 April 1983. On 18 September 1985, Admiral Hays assumed duties as Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command.

Admiral Hays' personal awards include the Distinguished Service Medal with three gold stars, Silver Star Medal with two gold stars, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with a silver and gold star, Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", Air Medal with numeral "14" and two gold stars, and the Navy Commendation Medal with a gold star.

Admiral Hays is married to the former Jane Hughes of Baltimore, Maryland. They have three children: Dennis, Michael and Jacquelyn.

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